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Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-05 EB-07

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L-02 H-02 OMB-01 DIWY-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SIL-01

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P R 280445Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0398
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
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MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, UNDP, CERP, QA
SUBJ: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: A) STATE 64907; B) MANAMA 0459

1. SUMMARY: 1975 BUDGET FOR UNDP PROJECTS IN QATAR IS MORE
THAN DOUBLE 1974 EXPENDITURES. PROJECTS GOQ/UNDP FUNDED ON
60-40 BASIS. MOST PROGRAMS APPEAR TO BE EFFECTIVE AND SOME
ARE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED ARE LACK
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OF QUALIFIED QATARIS FOR COUNTERPART PROGRAMS AND SOME

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DIFFICULTY IN RECRUITMENT OF EXPERTS. THERE DO NOT APPEAR TO
BE ANY PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION WITH OTHER UN AGENCIES. ON THE
WHOLE, UNDP SEEMS TO BE MAKING POSITIVE IMPACT HERE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED REF (A) PARA
5, (A) - (I).

(A) ROLE OF UNDP IN UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM - WHILE UNDP DEPUTY
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN BAHRAIN HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNDP
FUNDED PROJECTS IN QATAR, LOCAL SUPERVISION AND COORDINATION
IS CONDUCTED BY ASSISTANT REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, HANS AHLBERG,
WHO IS STATIONED IN DOHA. ASST REGIONAL REP IS REGARDED AS
EFFECTIVE LEADER OF UNDP ACTIVITIES. ONLY OTHER UN SYSTEM
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN QATAR IS PROVIDED BY TWO WHO REPRE-
SENTATIVES, AND ASST RES REP MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH THEM.
HE HAS GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOQ OFFICIALS AS WELL
AS OTHER UN PERSONNEL. DEPUTY REGIONAL REP HAS INFORMED EMBASSY
MANAMA THAT WORKING LEVEL COORDINATION WITH IBRD IS LACKING.
UNICEF IS NOT REPRESENTED IN QATAR.

(B) COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - QATAR
DOES NOT RECEIVE ANY MAJOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF UN
PROGRAMS.

(C) ROLE OF RES REP VIS-A-VIS OTHER UN SYSTEM ACTIVITIES -
WITH EXCEPTION OF OCCASIONAL CONFERENCES, ASST REGIONAL REP
HAS INFORMED US THAT THERE ARE VIRTUALLY NO OTHER UN ACTIVITIES
IN QATAR. ON RARE OCCASIONS WHEN SOMETHING DOES OCCUR, IT IS
HANDLED BY ASST REGIONAL REP OR DEPUTY REGIONAL REP.

(D) COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEWS - REVIEW OF QATAR COUNTRY PROGRAM
COMPLETED APRIL 1975. COUNTRY PROGRAM ITSELF WAS APPROVED BY
GOQ IN JANUARY 1975 AND COVERS PERIOD 1974-1976. REVIEW RE-
COSTED VARIOUS PROJECTS TO COMPENSATE FOR DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION
AND CHANGES IN COSTS. ESTIMATE OF TOTAL DIRECT INTERNATIONAL
COSTS WAS ALSO REVISED TO REFLECT THE CANCELLATION OR POST-
PONEMENT OF SEVERAL PROJECTS AS WELL AS ADDITION OF ONE ONGOING
PROJECT. SOME PROJECTS WERE ALSO RESTRUCTURED IN RESPONSE TO
CURRENT NEEDS. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSION
OF REVIEW BUT PROPOSED NO CHANGES TO FINAL REPORT.
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(E) APPRAISAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS - ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE
AIRGRAM AND CIRCULAR REFERRED TO IN STATE 64907, EMBASSY HAS
FOLLOWED PROGRESS OF MAJOR PROJECTS ON INFORMAL BASIS. THESE
INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FROM DEPT, AND FOLLOWING
RECEIPT EMBASSY WILL INSTITUTE PROGRAM FOR REVIEW OF PROPOSED
PROJECTS. HOWEVER, LACK OF EXPERTISE WILL COMPEL OUR RELIANCE
ON UNDP AND GOQ REACTIONS TO PROJECTS IN MAKING EVALUATIONS.

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(F) PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION - THERE DO NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY WEAK ONGOING PROJECTS. IN OPINION OF ASST REGIONAL REP, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL FAILURES IN PAST, SUCH AS QAT/71/501

HYDROAGRICULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY. ACCORDING TO ASST REGIONAL REP, MUCH OF DATA GATHERED BY SURVEY WAS INCORRECT AND CONCLUSIONS THEREFORE ERRONEOUS. ONLY ONGOING ASPECT OF PROJECT, WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN 1973, IS TRANSLATION OF REPORT INTO ARABIC. TWO POTENTIALLY WEAK PROJECTS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. THEY ARE: QAT/74/002 - CUSTOMS ADVISER AND QAT/72/010 - ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRODUCTION AND LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT FARM. FOLLOWING ARE TITLES AND BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL OR POTENTIALLY STRONG PROJECTS.

22) QAT/71/502 - ASSISTANCE TO FACULTIES OF EDUCATION. UNDP/UNESCO IS PROVIDING SEVEN FACULTY MEMBERS TO FACULTIES OF EDUCATION IN CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR. TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF THIS PROJECT 1972-76 IS $1.3 MILLION. PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDES TRAINING COMPONENT, AND FELLOWSHIPS TOTAL 269 MAN/MONTHS. FACULTIES OF EDUCATION ARE NUCLEUS OF FUTURE UNIVERSITY OF THE GULF WHICH IS EXPECTED TO ENROLL STUDENTS FROM ALL GULF STATES. BOTH DEPUTY REGIONAL REP AND ASST REGIONAL REP HAVE STATED THEY CONSIDER THIS STRONG PROGRAM, AS HAVE GOQ OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE HEARD DISSENTING VIEWS FROM SOME MEMBERS OF PROJECT STAFF WHICH WE WILL BE REPORTING SEPARATELY.

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(2) QAT/72/002 - VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME. SINCE IT OPENED IN DECEMBER 1970, REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER HAS PRODUCED 595 GRADUATES IN NUMBER OF FIELDS FROM FOUR LOWER GULF STATES (BAHRAIN, OMAN, QATAR AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES). COURSES RUN FROM 24 TO 30 MONTHS AND 485 STUDENTS ARE CURRENTLY IN TRAINING. TEN UNDP/ILO EXPERTS ARE ON STAFF. TRAINING CENTER TEACHES TECHNICAL SKILLS THAT ARE IN CRITICALLY SHORT SUPPLY IN MOST GULF STATES. GOQ OFFICIALS SEEM PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF THIS PROJECT.

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(3) QAT/74/007 - CIVIL AVIATION TRAINING. PROJECT NOT INCLUDED IN COUNTRY PROGRAM. TRAINING ADVISER ARRIVED IN DOHA JANUARY 1975 TO ASSIST GOQ IN PREPARATIONS FOR PROPOSED REGIONAL CIVIL AVIATION TRAINING COLLEGE (REM/74/001). THIS WILL BE REGIONAL PROJECT AIMED AT MEETING NEEDS OF LOWER GULF STATES FOR CIVIL AVIATION GROUND SERVICES. PLANS CALL FOR COLLEGE TO OPEN IN SEPT 1976 WITH OVER 200 STUDENTS.

(4) QAT/73/006 AND REM/71/278.- REGIONAL FISHERY SURVEY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROJECT INCLUDE IDENTIFICATION OF MAIN SPECIES OF FISH IN GULF AND GULF OF OMAN AND CALCULATION OF POTENTIAL ANNUAL YIELD. RESULTS OF SURVEY COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON UNDER-DEVELOPED FISHING INDUSTRY. REGIONAL ASPECT OF SURVEY IS ALSO IMPORTANT; ALL EIGHT GULF LITTORAL COUNTRIES ARE PARTICIPATING, INCLUDING IRAN. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME DELAYS IN PROJECT EXECUTION DUE TO (1) LACK OF QUALIFIED QATARIS FOR COUNTERPART PROGRAMS, AND (2) BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN RECRUITING EXPERTS. THIS IS A FACTOR ESPECIALLY IN THE ASSISTANCE TO FACULTIES OF EDUCATION PROGRAM. GOQ INSISTS THAT ALL UNDP/UNESCO PROFESSORS HAVE PHDS AND NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING EXPERIENCE. ASST REGIONAL REP NOTED THAT IT IS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO FIND PERSONNEL

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WITH THESE QUALIFICATIONS WHO ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT SOMEWHAT MEAGER SALARY OFFERED BY UNDP. GENERALLY INADEQUATE HOUSING IS A SUBJECT OF COMPLAINT FOR MANY UN PERSONNEL HERE.

(G) PROJECT EVALUATION - TRIPARTITE REVIEW SYSTEM HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED. ASST REGIONAL REP NOTED THAT IT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL TO SOME DEGREE. GOQ OFFICIALS ARE WILLING TO VENTURE ORAL OPINIONS BUT SHY AWAY FROM OFFERING WRITTEN PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE. ASST REGIONAL REP SAID THAT SYSTEM SEEMED TO HAVE GREATER DEGREE OF INPUT FROM HOST GOVERNMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN AREA.

(H) WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT - ACCORDING TO ASST REGIONAL REP, THERE ARE NO UNDP PROGRAMS PRESENT OR CONTEMPLATED IN QATAR THAT ARE AIMED AT INTEGRATING WOMEN IN COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. ALTLOUGH QATAR HAS CONSIDERABLE MANPOWER SHORTAGE, RELIGIOUS AND SOCIETAL RESTRAINTS ARE SUCH THAT GOQ WOULD NOT ACCEPT PROGRAM AIMED AT PUTTING WOMEN ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH MEN IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
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(I) FOLLOWUP WITH UNDP AND EXECUTING AGENCIES. RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL FOR UNDP PROGRAMS IN QATAR APPEARS TO BE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS. UNDP REP IN BAHRAIN HAS INDICATED THAT ORGANIZATION WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE US MISSIONS COULD PROVIDE.
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